ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: PROPOSED BRINE AND GROUNDWATER TREATMENT WORKS AT TUTUKA POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA

APRIL 2010

UPDATE OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT TO FINAL SCOPING REPORT

This Update Page describes the process followed since the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) was made available to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) for a 30-day comment period from 10 March 2010. It also highlights the changes that have been made to the DSR in response to the public participation process, and briefly reiterates the next steps in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

Process since the lodging of the DSR

The process since the lodging of the DSR has been as follows:

- The DSR was made available to the public at the Thuthukani and Standerton Public Libraries, the security centre at Tutuka Power Station and online on Eskom's and Aurecon's websites from 10 March 2010.
- All registered I&APs were informed of the lodging of the DSR for public comment and invited to open house/ public meetings, by means of a letter in English, Afrikaans, Sesotho and Zulu which was posted and e-mailed on 10 April 2010 (see **Annexure H**).
- The availability of the DSR and an invitation to the open house/ public meeting and focus group meeting was advertised in English, Afrikaans, Sesotho and Zulu in the Standerton Advertiser and Highveld Tribune on 11 and 16 March 2010, respectively (see **Annexure H**).
- A Focus Group Meeting and open house/ public meeting took place on 24 March 2010 at the Thutukani Community Centre and were attended by six and four I&APs, respectively. Notes of the meetings are included in **Annexure H**.
- A total of two written comments were received on the DSR and these are contained in **Annexure F** of the Final Scoping Report (FSR).
- All issues raised are summarised in the Comments and Response Report (CRR) Version 2 and responses to queries raised compiled by the project team (refer to **Annexure G** of the FSR).

Updating of the DSR to the FSR

A number of changes were made to the DSR and the associated Plan of Study for EIA as a result of comments raised by I&APs. Information that has been added has been underlined, while removed/ deleted information is indicated by a 'strikethrough', i.e. '~~report~~'. To assist readers, the most significant changes are outlined below.

General changes to the FSR:

A number of minor changes were made to the Report that have not been highlighted in the text and include:

- The DSR has been updated and is now called: "Proposed Brine and Groundwater Treatment Works at the Tutuka power station, Mpumalanga: Final Scoping Report"; and
- Grammatical and typographic changes.

An additional site location alternative has been included in **Section 2.3.3** for assessment in the EIA Phase. The proposed reject concentration works consists of two components, namely a pre-treatment facility and a treatment works component. The treatment works component would be adjacent to the existing RO process in each of the three location alternatives. The pre-treatment facility would be located on one of three locations between the existing RO and the north eastern cooling towers.

Annexures have been updated and include:

- The I&AP database has been updated in **Annexure E** of the FSR;
- Comments on the DSR have been in included in **Annexure F**.
- Comments on the DSR have been responded to in the CRR Version 2 in **Annexure G**.

Additional information included in a new annexure (**Annexure H**) includes:

- Notification of the availability of the DSR and an invitation to the open house/public meeting and focus group meeting sent to all I&APs on 10 March 2010;
- 2nd round of advertisements placed in the Standerton Advertiser and Highveld Tribune on 11 and 16 March 2010, respectively, notifying I&APs of the availability of the DSR and inviting I&APs to attend the open house/public meeting and focus group meeting; and
- Meeting notes (including presentations) from the open house/public meeting and focus group meeting on the DSR for meetings on 24 March 2010. The meeting notes were sent to all attendees of the respective meetings.

Furthermore, the Table of Contents page that lists the annexures/ documents in the FSR has also been amended.

The DSR has been updated to the FSR via the inclusion of this Update Page. Additional information has been included in Annexures E – G. A new annexure, Annexure H, consisting of the second round of public participation information, has also been added.

Updating of the Plan of Study for the EIA

An additional study has been commissioned, namely an avifauna assessment. The Terms or Reference (ToR) and specialist proposed for the study is as follows:

Avifauna assessment ToR:

- Undertake a desktop review of the site and surrounding area to identify avifaunal species potentially present in the area;
- Undertake a site visit to determine the presence of avifauna;
- Identify and assess potential impacts on avifauna;
- Recommend mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate potential impacts on avifauna.

Mr Doug Harebottle has been appointed to undertake the ecology study. A short description of Mr Harebottle's experience is included in **Section 5.4** and a full CV is available on request.

Way forward

- This Update Page has been sent to all registered I&APs on the database.
- Hard copies of the CRR Version 2 have been sent to all I&APs who provided comment on the DSR.
- Hard copies of the FSR will be made available to the public at the same venues as the DSR, as well as on Eskom's and Aurecon's websites from 19 April 2010.
- The FSR was submitted to the competent authority, namely the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for their consideration and review on 19 April 2010.
- DEA will review the FSR including the Plan of Study for EIA (together with the CRR Version 2) and issue a letter, either:
  - (i) Accepting the FSR including Plan of Study for EIA and advise the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to proceed with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for EIA, or
  - (ii) Request the EAP to make such amendments to the Report or the Plan of Study for EIA as the competent authority may require.
- The Draft Environmental Impact Assesement Report (EIAR), which is in the process of being compiled and will include the findings of the specialist studies, will be available for public review in July 2010. All registered I&AP's will be timeously informed of their opportunity to provide further input.

Aurecon would like to thank all those who have participated in this EIA process thus far.

OMGEWINGSINVLOEDBEPALING: BEOOGDE PEKEL- EN GRONDWATER-SUIWERINGSWERKE BY TUTUKA KRAGSENTRALE, MPUMALANGA

APRIL 2010

OPDATERING VAN DIE KONSEP OMVANGBEPALINGSVERSLAG NA DIE FINALE OMVANGBEPALINGSVERSLAG

In hierdie Opdateringsblad word die proses beskryf wat gevolg is sedert die Konsep Omvangbepalingsverslag (KOBV) op 10 Maart 2010 vir 'n tydperk van 30 dae aan Belanghebbende en Geaffekteerde Partye vir kommentaar beskikbaar gestel is. Dit gee 'n uiteensetting van die veranderinge wat na aanleiding van die proses van openbare deelname aan die KOBV aangebring is. Dit gee voorts ook 'n kort opsomming van die volgende stappe in die Omgewingsinvloedbepalingsproses (OIB-proses).

Proses sedert die Indiening van die KOBV

Die volgende proses is sedert die indiening van die KOBV gevolg:

- Die KOBV is vanaf 10 Maart 2010 by die Openbare Biblioteke te Thuthukani en Standerton, die sekuriteitsentrum by die Tutuka Kragsentrale, en aanlyn op Eskom en Aurecon se webblaaie beskikbaar gestel.
- By wyse van 'n brief wat op 10 Maart 2010 in Engels, Afrikaans, Sesotho en Zulu gepos en per epos uitgestuur is, is alle geregistreerde B&GPe ingelig oor die indiening van die KOBV vir openbare kommentaar en is hulle uitgenooi om 'n ope dag/ openbare vergadering (verwys na **Bylae H**) by te woon.
- Die beskikbaarheid van die KOBV, asook 'n uitnodiging na die ope dag/ openbare vergadering en fokusgroepvergadering, is onderskeidelik op 11 en 16 Maart 2010 in Engels, Afrikaans, Sesotho en Zulu in die Standerton Advertiser en Highveld Tribune geadverteer (verwys na **Bylae H**).
- 'n Fokusgroepvergadering en openbare vergadering /ope dag is op 24 Maart 2010 by die Thutukani Gemeenskapsentrum gehou en is onderskeidelik deur ses en vier B&GPe bygewoon. Die notas van hierdie vergadering is as **Bylae H** ingesluit.
- 'n Totaal van twee skriftelike kommentare is op die KOBV ontvang en dit is opgeneem in **Bylae F** van die Finale Omvangbepalingsverslag (FOBV).
- Alle kwessies wat geopper is, sowel as die projekspan se antwoorde daarop, is opgesom in die Kommentaar- en Antwoordverslag Weergawe 2 (verwys na **Bylae G** van die FOBV).

Opdatering van die KOBV na die FOBV

As gevolg van die kommentaar deur B&GPe is 'n aantal veranderinge aan die konsep Omvangbepalingsverslag en die gepaardgaande Studieplan vir die OIB aangebring. Inligting wat bygevoeg is, is in die FOBV 'onderstreep', terwyl inligting wat verwyder is, '~~deurgehaal~~' is (bv. ~~verslag~~). Die belangrikste veranderinge word gerieflikheidshalwe hieronder uiteengesit.

Algemene veranderinge aan die FOBV:

ŉ Aantal onbeduidende veranderinge wat in die Verslag aangebring maar nie aangedui is nie sluit in:

- Die opgedateerde KOBV staan nou bekend as die "Beoogde Pekel- en Grondwater-suiweringswerke by Tutuka Kragsentrale, Mpumalanga: Finale Omvangbepalingsverslag"; en
- Grammatiese en tipografiese veranderinge.

ŉ Bykomende alternatiewe ligging is in **Afdeling 2.3.3** vir beoordeling tydens die OIB-fase ingesluit. Die beoogde pekel-aanleg bestaan uit twee komponente, naamlik ŉ voor-behandelingsaanleg en ŉ suiweringswerke. In beide van die drie alternatiewe liggings, sal die suiweringswerke langs die TO-aanleg geplaas word. Die voor-behandelingsaanleg sal op een van die drie plekke, tussen die bestaande TO-aanleg en die noord-oostelike koeltorings, gebou word.

Bylaes is opgedateer en sluit in:

- Die opgedateerde databasis van B&GPe– **Bylae E** van die FOBV;
- Kommentaar op die KOBV – **Bylae F**.
- Kommentaar op die KOBV en die antwoorde daarop in K&AV 2 – **Bylae G**.

Bykomende inligting wat in ŉ nuwe Bylae (**Bylae H**) opgeneem is, sluit in:

- Kennisgewing van die beskikbaarheid van die KOBV en uitnodiging na die ope dae en ope dag/openbare vergadering wat op 10 Maart 2010 aan alle B&GPe gestuur is;
- 2de rondte advertensies, onderskeidelik op 11 en 16 Maart 2010, in die Standerton Advertiser en Highveld Tribune waarin B&GPe in kennis gestel is van die beskikbaarheid van die KOBV en hulle uitgenooi is om die ope dag/ openbare vergadering en fokusgroepvergadering by te woon; en
- Notas (aanbiedinge ingesluit) van ope dag/ openbare vergadering en fokusgroepvergadering oor die KOBV op 24 Maart 2010. Hierdie notas is aan almal wat die verskillende vergaderings bygewoon het, gestuur.

Die KOBV is by wyse van die Opdateringsblad na die FOBV opgedateer. Bykomende inligting is as Bylaes E – G ingesluit. ŉ Nuwe bylae, Bylae H (ŉ klankopname van die openbare deelname tydens die tweede rondte van deelname, is ook ingesluit.

Die Inhoudsopgawe is opgedateer met die byvoeging van bylaes/ dokumente in die FOBV.

Opdatering van die Studieplan vir die OIB

ŉ Bykomende ondersoek, naamlik ŉ beoordeling van avifauna, is aangevra. Die opdrag vir hierdie deskundige ondersoek is as volg:

Opdrag vir die beoordeling van avifauna:

- Voer ŉ lessenaarstudie van die terrein en omliggende gebied uit om die moontlike avifauna-spesies in die gebied te identifiseer;
- Onderneem ŉ terreinbesoek om die teenwoordigheid van avifauna te bevestig;
- Identifiseer en beoordeel moontlike impakte op avifauna;

- Aanbevole mitigasiemaatreëls om die moontlike impakte op avifauna te verminder of uit te skakel.

Mnr. Doug Harebottle is aangestel om die ekologiese ondersoek uit te voer. ŉ Kort opsomming van sy ondervinding is in **Afdeling 5.4** ingesluit en ŉ volledige CV is op aanvraag beskikbaar.

Pad Vorentoe

- Hierdie Opdateringsblad is aan alle geregistreerde B&GPe op die databasis gestuur.
- Afskrifte van die K&AV 2 is gestuur aan alle B&GPe wat op die KOBV kommentaar gelewer het.
- Afskrifte van die FOBV sal vanaf 19 April 2010 op dieselfde plekke as die KOBV aan die publiek beskikbaar gestel word, asook op Eskom en Aurecon se webblaaie.
- Die FOBV is op 19 April 2010 vir oorweging en oorsig by die bevoegde owerheid, naamlik die Departement van Omgewingsake (DOS), ingedien.
- DOS sal die FOBV, en die Studieplan vir die OIB (tesame met K&AV 2) nagaan en ŉ brief uitreik wat of:
  - (i) Die FOBV en die Studieplan vir die OIB goedkeur en die Omgewingspraktisyn adviseer om voort te gaan met die take soos in die Studieplan vir die OIB vervat; of
  - (ii) Versoek dat die Omgewingspraktisyn die nodige wysigings, soos deur die bevoegde owerheid benodig, aan die Verslag of die Studieplan aanbring.
- Die konsep Omgewingsinvloedverslag (OIV), wat tans saamgestel word en die bevindinge van die spesialisstudies sal insluit, sal teen Julie 2010 vir openbare kommentaar beskikbaar wees. Alle geregistreerde B&GPe sal betyds ingelig word van die geleentheid om verdere insette te verskaf.

Aurecon wil graag almal bedank wat tot dusver aan die OIB-proses deelgeneem het.